

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

providing a digital assistant having an event detector with access to an information provider such that the event detector is able to receive information from the information provider;

receiving information of an event;

determining ~~[[the]]~~ a level of importance of the event relative to a first person; and

if the level of importance of the event [[has]] is determined by the digital assistant to be a level of importance greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and [[a]] if the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be [[that is]] below or equal to a second predetermined threshold, then taking action requiring payment to an e-commerce provider in response to the event without contacting any person.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event ~~[[to the first person]]~~ comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the first person.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event ~~[[to the first person]]~~ comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event ~~[[to the first person]]~~ comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event ~~[[to the first person]]~~ comprises referring to information concerning the location

of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a device carried by said at least one person supplying information concerning said at least one person's current whereabouts.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises taking into account a limitation on a way of contacting at least one person arising from where said at least one person is currently located.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the first person's preferences to determine if the first person would prefer that action be taken on behalf of the first person to respond to the event without contacting any person and to determine the price limitation for any action taken on behalf of the first person.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises taking into account whether or not an earlier attempt was made to contact at least one person.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning rules specified by the first person concerning circumstances in which the first person will not permit action to be taken without at least one person being contacted.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein referring to rules specified by the first person further comprises referring to information concerning exceptions to those rules.

11. (currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

receive information of an event;

determine [[the]] a level of importance of the event to a first person; and

if the level of importance of the event ~~has a level of importance~~ is determined to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and ~~[[a]]~~ if the level of importance of the event is determined to be ~~[[that is]]~~ below or equal to a second predetermined threshold, then taking action requiring payment to an e-commerce provider in response to the event without contacting any person.

12. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event ~~[[to the first person]]~~ comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the first person.

13. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event ~~[[to the first person]]~~ comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

14. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event ~~[[to the first person]]~~ comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

15. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event ~~[[to the first person]]~~ comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a device carried by said at least one person supplying information concerning said at least one person's current whereabouts.

16. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event ~~[[to the first person]]~~ comprises taking into account a limitation on a way of contacting at least one person arising from where said at least one person is currently located.

17. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the first person's preferences to determine if the first person would prefer that action be taken on behalf of the first person to respond to the event without contacting at least one person and to determine the price limitation for any action taken on behalf of the first person.

18. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises taking into account whether or not an earlier attempt was made to contact at least one person.

19. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning rules specified by the first person concerning circumstances in which the first person will not permit action to be taken without at least one person being contacted.

20. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein referring to rules specified by the first person further comprises referring to information concerning exceptions to those rules.

21. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

providing a digital assistant having an event detector with access to an information provider such that the event detector is able to receive information from the information provider;

receiving information concerning a previous attempt to contact at least one person concerning an event;

determining [[the]] a level of importance of the event to a first person; and

if the level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be ~~has a~~ level of importance greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and if the [[a]]

level of importance is determined by the digital assistant to be below or equal to a second predetermined threshold, then take action requiring payment to an e-commerce provider in response to the event without making a subsequent attempt to contact any person.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises evaluating the effect of the passage of time since a previous attempt to contact at least one person was made on the level of importance of the event.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a device carried by said at least one person supplying information concerning said at least one person's current whereabouts.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event [[to the first person]] comprises referring to information concerning the first person's preferences to determine if the first person would prefer that action be taken on behalf of the first person to respond to the event without contacting at least one person and to determine the price limitation for any action taken on behalf of the first person.

27. (currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

receive information concerning a previous attempt to contact at least one person concerning an event;

determine ~~[[the]]~~ a level of importance of the event to a first person; and

if the level of importance of the event ~~has a level of importance~~ is determined to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and ~~[[a]]~~ if the level of importance of the event is determined to be below or equal to a second predetermined threshold, then take action requiring payment to an e-commerce provider in response to the event without making a subsequent attempt to contact any person.

28. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein determining the level of importance of the event ~~[[to the first person]]~~ comprises evaluating the effect of the passage of time since a previous attempt to contact at least one person was made on the level of importance of the event.

29. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein determining the level of importance of the event ~~[[to the first person]]~~ comprises referring to information concerning activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged.

30. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein determining the level of importance of the event ~~[[to the first person]]~~ comprises referring to information concerning the first person's preferences to determine if the first person would prefer that action be taken on behalf of the first person to respond to the event without contacting at least one person and to determine the price limitation for any action taken on behalf of the first person.

31. (currently amended) ~~[[An apparatus]]~~ A digital assistant programmed by a first person with information concerning the first person's activities, and configured by a first person to:  
receive information concerning an event,

determine ~~[[the]]~~ a level of importance of the event to the first person, and  
if the level of importance of the event ~~has a level of importance~~ is determined by the  
digital assistant to be greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and if the ~~[[a]]~~  
level of importance of the event is determined by the digital assistant to be below or equal to a  
second predetermined threshold, then take action requiring payment to a service provider in  
response to the event without making an attempt to contact at least one person.

32. (currently amended) The ~~[[apparatus]]~~ digital assistant of claim 31 further programmed  
by the first person with the first and second thresholds.

33. (currently amended) The ~~[[apparatus]]~~ digital assistant of claim 31 further programmed  
by the first person with rules indicating when action should always be taken without making  
an attempt to contact at least one person.

34. (cancelled)

35. (cancelled)

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising determining whether  
or not an opportunity to take any action remains.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

ceasing to take action if the level of importance of the event ~~has a level of importance~~  
is determined by the digital assistant to be below the first predetermined threshold; and

logging an instance of a lack of resolution in response to the event if it is determined  
that no further action is possible.

38. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the  
processor is further caused to determine whether or not an opportunity to take any action  
remains.

39. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the processor is further caused to:

cease to take action if the level of importance of the event has a level of importance is determined by the digital assistant to be below the first predetermined threshold; and

log an instance of a lack of resolution in response to the event if it is determined that no further action is possible.